

Message Text

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14

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-11 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SAM-01 /059 W

----- 048414

O R 101200Z JAN 76 ZFF4

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2600

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 0119

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NG, AO

SUBJECT: NIGER AND ANGOLA

REF: NIAMEY 107

1. NIGER'S POLICY TOWARDS ANGOLA APPEARS TO
BE IN STATE OF SOME DISARRAY. AS REPORTED REFTTEL,
GON REVERSED ITSELF ON ITS NON-RECOGNITION POLICY AND
ANNOUNCED AT 1300 HOURS LOCAL JANUARY 9 THAT IT WAS
RECOGNIZING MPLA. AFP DISPATCH FROM ADDIS DATED
JANUARY 10 RECEIVED HERE THIS MORNING JANUARY 10 QUOTED
PRESIDENT KOUNCHE AS STATING ON ARRIVAL AT
ADDIS EVENING JANUARY 9 THAT HE WAS IGNORANT
OF ANY DECISION OT RECOGNIZE MPLA AND THAT GON WOULD
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TAKE DECISION ONLY AFTER CONSIDERING OAU SUMMIT

DELIBERATIONS.

2. IN ATTEMPT CLARIFY SITUATION, I SAW MINISTER OF INFORMATION LOUTOU MORNING JANUARY 10. AFTER KOUNCHE AND FONMIN DJERMAKOYE, BOTH OF WHOM ARE IN ADDIS, HE IS PROBABLY MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE MINISTER ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS MATTERS. LOUTOU, OBVIOUSLY EMBARRASSED BY TURN OF EVENTS. SAID HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH AFP DISPATCH FROM ADDIS AND GON WAS URGENTLY TRYING TO GET IN TOUCH WITH KOUNCHE TO SEEK CONFIRMATION OF NEWS REPORTS AND CLARIFICATION OF GON POLICY ON ANGOLA. HE CONFIRMED THAT GON POLICY HAS BEEN ONE OF NON-RECOGNITION UNTIL TRR M HOURS JANUARY 9 WHEN MPLA WAS RECOGNIZED. ASSUMING KOUNCHE WAS CORRECTLY QUOTED, LOUTOU COULD ONLY PRESUME THAT DEVELOPMENTS DURING FLIGHT OR ON ARRIVAL ABOUT WHICH GON NOT AWARE MAY HAVE PERSUADED KOUNCHE TO REVERSE HIMSELF AGAIN AND REVERT TO NON-RECOGNITION STANCE.

3. LOUTOU STRESSED THAT IN ANY EVENT, WHATEVER ANNOUNCEMENT MAY HAVE BEEN MADE IN NIAMEY ABOUT RECOGNITION OF MPLA IT WAS KOUNCHE WHO CALLED SHOTS AND ITX WAS IN ADDIS THAT GON POLICY ON ANGOLA WOULD BE SET FORTH.

4. COMMENT. KOUNCHE ALLEGED PRESS COMMENTS ON ARRIVAL IN ADDIS ARE CONSISTENT WITH NON-RECOGNITION POSITION WHICH HE HAS AFFIRMED TO US AND OTHERS WOULD REMAIN GON POLICY ON ANGOLA UNTIL OAU MEETING. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT NIGER REMAINS IN NEUTRAL CAMP NOTWITHSTANDING ANNOUNCEMENT HERE YESTERDAY. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER AS EVENTS UNFOLD. HECK

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